GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2700
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Death of Lions
De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent deaths of lions due to viral infection in Etawah Safari park;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether any study has been conducted/proposed to be conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the spread of the said infection?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per information received from the Central Zoo Authority, the lioness "Lakshmi" and the lion "Vishnu" of Lion Safari and Conservation Breeding Centre, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh died on 30th October, 2014 and 6thNovember, 2014 respectively due to Canine Distemper, a viral disease. The lioness "Tapasya" died on 9th January, 2016 due to Bebesiosis, a protozoan infection. Besides above, 5 lion cubs also died at Lion Safari and Conservation Breeding Centre, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh of which, 2 cubs died due to still birth (born dead) and other 3 due to Septicaemia/ Pneumonia.

(b)&(c) The Central Zoo Authority constituted an expert committee to look into the causes of death and consequent remedial measures required in the matter consisting of representative from Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly; Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Field Director of Lion Safari at M.C. Zoological park, Chattbir and the Deputy Inspector General of the Central Zoo Authority. After examining the records, facilities and infrastructure available for upkeep and health care of the wild animals kept in captivity, the Committee found that the proper treatment in consultation with the National Referral Centre of Wildlife Health at IVRI, Bareilly was carried out. The infrastructure and facilities available were also found to be satisfactory.

(d) The Central Zoo Authority has stipulated standards/norms under Recognition of Zoo (Amendment) Rules, 2013 with reference to protection of animals which include timely supply of quality food and water, regular screening for parasitic loads, upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals, screening against zoonotic diseases by the veterinary officer of the zoo. Further, the Central Zoo Authority designated the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly as National Referral Centre for disease diagnosis and care of wild animals.

With the grants provided by the Central Zoo Authority, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly has prepared a manual titled "Standards, Guidelines and Protocol of Disease Diagnosis and Cure of Wild Animals in Indian Zoos". A copy of this manual has been provided to zoos in the country and it has been uploaded on the website of the Central Zoo Authority for ready reference by the zoo management personnel all over the country. The Central Zoo Authority has also circulated a guideline on 18.11.2004 to Chief Wild Life Wardens of all the States/UTs and Directors/ Curators/ Zoo incharge of all zoos in the country on suggested health monitoring protocols for zoos. It has also been uploaded on the website of the Central Zoo Authority.

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